

Camden County Board of Commissioners**Joint Meeting with
Currituck County Board of Commissioners
May 21, 2008
7:00 P.M.
Camden County High School Cafeteria
Camden, North Carolina****MINUTES**

A joint meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held with the Currituck Board of Commissioners on Wednesday, May 21, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Camden County High School Cafeteria, Camden, North Carolina. The following members were present:

Chairman Jeffrey B. Jennings
Vice Chairman Philip Faison
Commissioners Melvin J. Jeralds, Sandy Duckwall and Mike Andrews

Chairman Barry Nelms
Commissioners Gene Gregory, Janet Taylor and Owen Etheridge

Also attending was Camden County Manager Randell Woodruff, Clerk to the Board Ava Gurganus, Currituck County Manager Dan Scanlon, County Attorney John S. Morrison, Tom West and Pam Scott of Poyner & Spruill, and Greer Beaty of French/West/Vaughan.

Chairman Jeffrey Jennings and Chairman Barry Nelms called the joint meeting to order and lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The purpose of the meeting was to receive comments from the public regarding the proposed Navy OLF.

Camden County Manager Randell Woodruff reported on the following:

- Gave an update on developments to date; hired experts for legal, public relations and engineering.
- Camden/Currituck partnership established.
- Meetings with state and federal delegations in Raleigh.

Attorney Tom West, Poyner & Spruill, stated his firm has been retained to litigate and lobby against the Navy OLF. The following items were addressed by Mr. West:

- gave an overview of the process for fighting the OLF and letters must be postmarked by June 6, 2008.
- Environment Impact Statement (EIS): does not dictate Navy's decision; opportunities for public involvement – scoping comments and public comments for Draft EIS; all questions will be addressed in EIS; Navy will not respond to any submitted questions until Draft EIS is completed.
- Comprehensive Study and Analysis of Alternative: All alternatives are to be studied which includes environmental impact and socioeconomic and cultural impact.
- Draft EIS will be completed in July.
- Public Hearings will be held.
- Final EIS and report of decision from Navy.
- Chance of possible legal challenge if Navy chooses Hale's Lake

Currituck County Manager Dan Scanlon reported on what the community can do by asking questions, turning in scoping questions and comments by June 6, 2008 to the Camden County or Currituck County Administrative Offices, encouraged citizens writing letters of concern to the Navy, stated and federal elected official; urged everyone to help citizens group and ask for speakers at community clubs or group.

Camden County Manager Randell Woodruff outlined the procedure for the public comments; comments will be taken alternately – pro and con, and will be limited to three (3) minutes

Public Comments

Larry Johnson, 106 East Robin Court, South Mills, spokesperson for Camden Citizens Group, presented the following concerns:

- Stormwater run off due to runway; retention ponds and ditches will be required
- Construction of run way will bring additional problems, towers, new roads and buildings

- Camden will lose one of the major farming producing areas in the state of North Carolina which will take away the farmer's income
- OLF will increase the number of fires in the peat land of Hale's Lake
- The additional fencing that the Navy is going to install means that the Navy is going to restrict wildlife
- The site is only 11' above sea level
- The landing field will disturb the wildlife at the Great Dismal Swamp and impact the tourism of the Dismal Swamp Visitors Center
- It is a waste of taxpayer money to spend \$250,000,000.00 to \$500,000,000.00 because of pollution
- The taxpayers will have to pay to clean up the pollution
- People in Virginia are against having the OLF in North Carolina
- Navy will put easements and restrictions on your property and you will maintain the property for the Navy

Juanita Krause, spokesperson for Currituck Citizens Group, presented the following concerns:

- Discrepancies: Navy documentation handed out at the Navy scoping meetings and found discrepancies regarding information given to other counties; flight schedule, land purchase buyout, property easements, fly over space, Navy stated that they do not dump fuel.
- Contradictions: Fort Pickett was eliminated because it was greater than 50 miles from the home base and is used for fire arms training; Carteret County was eliminated because the OLF will devalue the limit of the training range
- Lawsuit: Suits filed by Virginia property owners because of the noise.
- Accountability: who holds the Navy accountable

County Manager Randell Woodruff called for any comments in favor of the OLF.

No comments were received in favor of the OLF.

Troy Brethweight, Providence Drive, Moyock, stated he has spend a lot of time looking over complicated and overwhelming documents from the Navy finding the many contradictions. Mr. Brethweight compared how the Navy performed their study of the Washington County site; the Navy chose the Washington site first and then went back and studied it along with four (4) other sites and made the data fit for the Washington site. Washington County accused the Navy of doing this and the judge made the Navy go back to do a supplementary environmental statement to correct the discrepancies in the final impact statement. The Navy picked Washington County out of five (5) sites that were studied in 2003. Since the Navy can not get the preferred Washington County site, they discarded the other four (4) sites and started all over again. In 2007 the Navy returned with a new list of sites which includes Hale's Lake. At the Navy scoping meetings, the materials stated that the nearest transit distance calculated from Oceania was Hale's Lake at twenty six (26) miles. *Google Earth* calculated Oceania to Hale's Lake and a straight line calculation was 26 miles and the Navy did not calculate a straight line with the other sites and the calculations for those sites were less than what the Navy informed the people. The noise zone is a 9 x 4 mile radius: 9 miles in one direction will cover all of Moyock and most of the central part of Camden County and a good part of the central part of Pasquotank. Mr. Brethweight stated that noise decimals double every three (3) decimals and referendums held by Virginia Beach regarding a BRACK base in Florida.

Bill Lehmann, 3137 West Main Street, Elizabeth City, stated he is concerned regarding the noise, air pollution, wildlife, waterfowl, environment, schools and the quality of life and spoke in opposition of the OLF.

County Manager Randell Woodruff called for any comments in favor of the OLF. No comments were received in favor of the OLF.

Jack Leeinthal, 159 Mariners Way, Moyock, spoke in opposition of the OLF.

County Manager Randell Woodruff called for any comments in favor of the OLF. No comments were received in favor of the OLF.

Mike Zimmerman, 111 Covey, Moyock, spoke in opposition of the OLF.

County Manager Randell Woodruff called for any comments in favor of the OLF. No comments were received in favor of the OLF.

Rosie Hale, Elizabeth City, spoke in opposition of the OLF.

County Manager Randell Woodruff called for any comments in favor of the OLF. No comments were received in favor of the OLF.

Bob Burnardt, 156 Mariners Way, Moyock, spoke in opposition of the OLF.

Sherry Moats, Summit Farms, Moyock, spoke in opposition of the OLF.

Ann Jennings, Trotman Road, Camden, spoke in opposition of the OLF.

Johnny Mazina, Bells Island, Currituck, spoke in opposition of the OLF.

Gary Davis, Cooper Garrett Road, Moyock, spoke in opposition of the OLF.

Christian Overton, 1293 South 343, Shiloh, spoke in opposition of the OLF.

Juanita Krause, quoted a resident of Washington County Joel Turner: *“This is a profound difference the Navy and its people. The Navy is part of the Government; the people are your fellow citizens just as concerned with the liberties as you are.”* Mr. Krause urged everyone to write letters to legislators.

Chairman Barry Nelms stated that he feels that Camden has been singled out because of finances and fuel costs and will support Camden 110% to fight the OLF. The Navy has given no parameters.

Chairman Jeffrey Jennings thanked the Currituck County Board of Commissioners for coming on board and being a good neighbor; this is going to be a long hard fight and urged the citizens to keep the pressure on the leaders in Washington and Raleigh.

Adjournment

Commissioner Melvin Jeralds made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with Commissioners Melvin Jeralds, Sandy Duckwall, Philip Faison, Mike Andrews and Chairman Jeffrey Jennings voting aye; no Commissioner voting no; no Commissioner absent; and no Commissioner not voting.

The joint meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Jeffrey B. Jennings, Chairman
Camden County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Ava J. Gurganus
Clerk to the Board